

reading matter, it seems to me that I would unhesitatingly begin at the other end. I have known a great many people who take time to wade thru column after column of newspaper chaff to get at the kernel of news, which they would find at a glance in the head lines,—then pick up a church paper, and superficially glance at its head-lines, during the stray moments in which they happen to have nothing else to do. They read their Bibles in much the same way.

What Men Need Wives For

It is not to sweep the house, and make the beds, and darn the socks, and cook the meals chiefly, that a man wants a wife. If this is all he wants, hired servants can do it cheaper than a wife. If this is all, when a young man calls to see a lady, send him into the pantry to taste the bread and cakes she has made; send him to inspect the needle work and bed-making; or put a broom into her hands and send him to witness its use.

Such things are important, and the wise young man will quietly look after them. But what the true man most wants of a wife is her companionship, sympathy and love. The way of life has many dreary places in it and man needs a companion to go with him. A man is sometimes overtaken by misfortunes; he meets with failure and defeat; trials and temptations beset him; and he needs one to stand by him and sympathize. He has some stern battles to fight with poverty, with enemies, and with sin, and he needs a woman that, while he puts his arm around her and feels that he has something to fight for, will help him fight; who will put her lips to his ear and whisper words of counsel, and her hand to his heart and impart new inspirations.

All thru life—thru storm and thru sunshine, conflict and victory; thru adverse and favorable winds—the man needs a woman's love. The heart yearns for it. A sister's and a mother's love will hardly supply the need.

Yet many seek for nothing further than success in housework. Justly enough, half of these get nothing more. The other half, surprised above measure, obtain more than they sought. Their wives surprise them by bringing a nobler idea of marriage, and disclosing a treasury of courage, sympathy and love.

Peace is joy in its fullness. It comes to those who long for and seek it. A gift goes not where there is nothing to contain it; we do not pour grain into the air, but into the basket held for its reception. So it is a law of our moral nature that what we receive is always in proportion to our power of acceptance. A minister once prayed: "O Lord, we know not how much of thy grace we shall receive this day, but we know that we shall receive as much as we desire." The Lord does not send showers of blessing upon sealed hearts.—Julia B. Shaufler.

Our Young People

Why Life Should Be Bright

A. A. PROCTER

Set your affections on things above.—Col. 3:2.

Our God, we thank thee, who hast made
The earth so bright;
So full of splendor and of joy,
Beauty and light;
So many glorious things are here,
Noble and right.

We thank thee, too, that thou hast made
Joy to abound;
So many gentle thoughts and deeds
Circling us round
That in the darkest spot of earth
Some love is found.

We thank Thee more that all our joy
Is touched with pain;
That shadows fall on brightest hours,
That thorns remain;
So that earth's bliss may be our guide,
And not our chain.

We thank thee, Lord, that thou hast kept
The best in store;
We have enough, yet not too much,
To long for more;
A yearning for a deeper peace
Not known before.

We thank thee, Lord, that here our souls,
Thou amply blest,
Can never find, altho they seek,
A perfect rest;
Nor ever shall, until they lean
On Jesus' breast.

OUR MISSIONARY BOARDS

I Cor. 12:1-10

Topic for Sunday, May 25

HOME READINGS

Mon. May 19, Impossibilities? Mk. 10:23-27.
Tues. " 20, All the earth. Isa. 43:1-7.
Wed. " 21, God's eyes. II Chron. 16:7-9.
Thur. " 22, For our brethren. Josh. 1:12-18.
Fri. " 23, A pressing work. Neh. 6:1-9.
Sat. " 24, The secret of fruitfulness. Jno. 12:23-26.

If any organization at all is worthy of attention in our C. E. meetings, the missionary boards surely deserve consideration. They have the work which requires the greatest faith and prudence and at the same time the work which must depend most for its support upon the uncertain zeal of the people.

Being too, a necessary consequence of the growth of the church they have not the encouragement of specific promises and instructions in the Word which records the history of the infancy of the church only. But while mission boards are not called by name in the Word the principles which, put in practical operation produce mission boards, are plainly taught. Let us briefly notice these:

1 The gospel to be carried to all the world. Matt. 28:19. This implies all the agencies necessary to execute this command. Rom. 10:14, 15.

2 Those who give their time to extending the gospel are to be paid. I Cor. 9:7-14.

Why is it necessary for missionaries to be supported?

Is it more necessary to support a foreign missionary than a home pastor? Why?

What expense is connected with a missionary's life, in preparation and in actual field work?

3 Agencies are necessary for the collection and disbursement of funds. II Cor. 9:1-5.

The apostles directed this and our mission boards may well imitate their methods of gaining support for mission work.

Are any special methods prescribed by the Word, or are our mission boards free to devise new methods of promoting mission work?

What are some of the methods of raising mission money?

4 Mission boards have a right to expect support thru regular, systematic and proportionate offerings. I Cor. 16:2.

The system Paul proposes is that of weekly offerings regularly laid aside.

The proportion is that of ability—"as God has prospered him."

How may we determine the exact amount to give from this principle?

Is one-tenth about the proportion which most people could afford to give if they would?

SPECIAL TOPICS FOR TALKS

1 The general mission board of the Brethren church. Who composes it? How are the members elected? What are their duties?

2 The state or district boards. What plan has your state or district for supporting mission work?

3 Local Boards. Has your church or society a missionary board or committee to see to the raising of mission money and creating interest in missions in general? If not why not?

4 Special problems before the Brethren church: When and where and how shall foreign missionary work be attempted?

How can a fund be provided which can be depended upon?

How can indifferent churches be aroused to their duty in supporting missions?

How can all our members be induced to give every week as God has prospered them?

5 Prayer for our mission boards. This they need first and most because true praying will cause true giving and going.

C. F. YODER.

Christian Life

The Simple Desire

O Master, let me walk with thee,
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret, help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience, still with thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong,

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way.
In peace, that only Thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

—Washington Gladden.

Prayer

Pray fervently or thou dost nothing. Cold prayer is no more prayer than painted fire is fire. The promise is only to the fervent prayer. A stubborn child is no heir, neither is a prayer that wants life heir to any promise. Fervency is to prayer what fire was to the spices in the censer; without this it can-